

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A system comprising:  
2 a server computer;  
3 a first transmission medium coupled to the server computer; and  
4 a client computer coupled to the first transmission medium, the client  
5 computer including a security component that has exclusive access to a log  
6 stored at the client computer.
- 1 2. The system of claim 1 further comprising:  
2 a second transmission medium coupled to the client computer; and  
3 a source device coupled to the second transmission medium.
- 1 3. The system of claim 2 wherein the client computer further comprises:  
2 a playback component that transmits a log entry to the security  
3 component upon receiving a request to play content received from the source  
4 device via the second transmission medium; and  
5 a billing component that transmits the log to the server computer via the  
6 first transmission medium.
- 1 4. The system of claim 3 wherein the billing component transmits the log to  
2 the server computer upon receiving a request from the server computer.
- 1 5. The system of claim 3 wherein the billing component transmits the log to  
2 the server computer at predetermined time intervals.
- 1 6. The system of claim 1 wherein the client computer is a personal computer.

1 7. The system of claim 1 wherein the client computer is a set top appliance.

1 8. The system of claim 1 wherein the server computer comprises:  
2 a billing component that receives the log from the client computer via the  
3 first transmission medium;  
4 a second security component that decrypts and verifies the integrity of the  
5 log; and  
6 a database that stores the log.

1 9. The system of claim 2 wherein the first transmission medium comprises a  
2 secure back channel that secures transmissions between the server computer and  
3 the client computer and the second transmission medium is a broadcast channel.

1 10. The system of claim 2 wherein the second transmission medium  
2 comprises an internal network connection.

1 11. The system of claim 2 wherein the second transmission medium  
2 comprises a satellite transmission.

1 12. A method comprising:  
2 generating a billing record at a computer system;  
3 receiving the billing record at a security component within the computer  
4 system;  
5 inserting the billing record into a log; and  
6 encrypting the log.

1 13. The method of claim 12 further comprising receiving a request at the  
2 computer system to retrieve media content that is to be played at the computer  
3 system.

1 14. The method of claim 12 further comprising writing the log to a data  
2 storage device within the computer system.

1 15. A software product having one or more recordable media having stored  
2 thereon executable instructions which, when executed by a processing device,  
3 causes the processing device to:

4 generate a billing record at a computer system;

5 receive the billing record at a security component within the computer  
6 system;

7 insert the billing record into a log; and

8 encrypt the log.

1 16. The software product of claim 15 further comprising causing the  
2 processing device to receive a request at the computer system to retrieve media  
3 content that is to be played at the computer system.

1 17. The software product of claim 15 further comprising causing the  
2 processing device to write the log to a data storage device within the computer  
3 system.

1 18. A method comprising:

2 receiving an encrypted billing log at a server computer from a client  
3 computer via a secure back channel;

4 decrypting the billing log at a security component within the server  
5 computer; and

6 storing the billing log at a database.

1 19. The method of claim 18 further comprising testing the validity of the  
2 billing log.

1 20. The method of claim 19 wherein testing the validity of the billing log  
 2 comprises:  
 3 validating a digital signature in order to authenticate the billing log; and  
 4 comparing a first token value stored in the database with a second token  
 5 value included with the billing log received over the secure back channel.

1 21. The method of claim 20 further comprising:  
 2 generating a third token value;  
 3 generating a second billing log at the server computer that includes the  
 4 third token value; and  
 5 transmitting the second billing log and the third token value to the client  
 6 computer via the secure back channel.

1 22. The method of claim 21 further comprising:  
 2 signing the second billing log with a second digital signature; and  
 3 encrypting the second billing log prior to transmitting the second billing  
 4 log to the client computer.

1 23. A software product having one or more recordable media having stored  
 2 thereon executable instructions which, when executed by a processing device,  
 3 causes the processing device to:  
 4 receive an encrypted billing log at a server computer from a client  
 5 computer via a secure back channel;  
 6 decrypt the billing log at a security component within the server  
 7 computer; and  
 8 store the billing log at a database.

1 24. The software product of claim 23 further comprising causing the

2 processing device to test the validity of the billing log.

1 25. The software product of claim 24 wherein causing the processing device to  
2 test the validity of the billing log further causes the processing device to:  
3 validate a digital signature in order to authenticate the billing log; and  
4 compare a first token value stored in the database with a second token  
5 value included with the billing log received over the secure back channel.

1 26. The software product of claim 25 further comprising causing the  
2 processing device to:  
3 generate a third token value;  
4 generate a second billing log at the server computer that includes the third  
5 token value; and  
6 transmit the second billing log and the third token value to the client  
7 computer via the secure back channel.

1 27. The software product of claim 25 further comprising causing the  
2 processing device to:  
3 sign the second billing log with a second digital signature; and  
4 encrypt the second billing log prior to transmitting the second billing log  
5 to the client computer.